

Appl. No. 10/754,021
Amdt. Dated 8-Apr-05
Reply to Office Action of 12/26/2004
Attorney Docket No. : 6056-001
Customer No. 29,335

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-6: Cancelled.

Claim 7 (New) An ergonomic handle grip for a hand-held implement, comprising:

a generally elliptically-shaped main handle body member having a longitudinal axis and a circumferential axis, upper and lower aspects of the main handle body member being positioned along semi-major axes and opposing lateral side surfaces being positioned along semi-minor axes of the generally elliptical-shaped main handle body member, a forward end and a rearward end, the main handle body member being curved along its longitudinal axis from the forward end and the rearward end, and having a plurality of recessed regions and raised regions for accommodating a user's hand and finger grip thereupon, a thumb recess on one of the opposing lateral side surfaces and proximate the forward end of the main handle body member; at least two recesses on a second of the opposing lateral side surfaces which extend circumferentially from the second of the opposing lateral side surfaces to a lower surface of the main handle body member and proximate the forward end of the main handle body member, and a first projection distal the at least two recesses.

Claim 8 (New) The ergonomic handle grip according to Claim 7, further comprising a second projection extending circumferentially about a portion of the main handle body member and positioned intermediate a pair of the at least two recesses on the second of the opposing lateral side surfaces.

Claim 9 (New) The ergonomic handle grip according to Claim 8, further comprising a third projection extending circumferentially about a portion of the main handle body member and positioned intermediate a second pair of the at least two recesses on the second of the opposing lateral side surfaces.

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Claim 10 (New) The ergonomic handle grip according to Claim 7, wherein the curve of the main handle body member approximates an anatomical curve of a human palm when the main handle body member is gripped.

Claim 11 (New) The ergonomic handle grip according to Claim 7, wherein the thumb recess has a generally elliptical shape with the semi-major axis of the thumb recess being generally parallel to the longitudinal axis of the main handle body member.

Claim 12 (New) The ergonomic handle grip according to Claim 11, wherein the generally elliptical shaped thumb recess is adapted to position a user's thumb generally parallel to the longitudinal axis of the main handle body member.

Claim 13 (New) The ergonomic handle grip according to Claim 11, wherein the at least two recesses each further comprise a generally U-shaped recess in the main handle body member, with raised projection extending generally circumferentially along at least a portion of the main handle body member and intermediate the at least two generally U-shaped recesses.

Claim 14 (New) The ergonomic handle grip according to Claim 13, wherein a first of the at least two generally U-shaped recesses being most proximate the forward end of the main handle body member is adapted to accommodate a user's index finger therein.

Claim 15 (New) The ergonomic handle grip according to Claim 14, wherein a second of the at least two generally U-shaped recesses being adjacent to the first of the at least two generally U-shaped recesses is adapted to accommodate a user's middle finger therein.

Claim 16 (New) The ergonomic handle grip according to Claim 15, wherein the first projection is longitudinally adjacent the second of the at least two generally U-shaped recesses.

Claim 17 (New) The ergonomic handle grip according to Claim 16, wherein the first projection has a height sufficient to separate a user's middle finger from the user's ring finger when the user grips the main handle body member.

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Claim 18 (New) The ergonomic handle grip according to Claim 7, further comprising a knife blade joined to a forward end of the main handle body member.

Claim 19 (New) An ergonomic hand-held knife, comprising:

a generally elliptically-shaped handle member having a longitudinal axis and a circumferential axis, upper and lower aspects of the handle member being positioned along semi-major axes and opposing lateral side surfaces being positioned along semi-minor axes of the generally elliptical-shaped handle member, a distal end and a proximate end, the handle member being curved along its longitudinal axis from the forward end and the rearward end, and having a plurality of recessed regions and raised regions for accommodating a user's hand and finger grip thereupon, a generally elliptical shaped recess in a first of the opposing lateral surfaces proximate the forward end of the handle member, the generally elliptical shaped recess having its semi-major access generally parallel to the longitudinal axis of the handle member; at least one generally U-shaped recess extending at least partially circumferentially about a second opposing lateral surface of the handle member; the generally elliptical shaped recess and the at least one generally U-shaped recess being positioned proximate the distal end of the handle member such that a user's thumb is engaged in the generally elliptical shaped recess and a user's forefinger is engaged in the at least one generally U-shaped recess in a gripping manner which exerts opposing gripping forces against the handle member; and

a knife blade extending from the distal end of the handle member such that a sharp edge of the knife is positioned generally in-line with the lower aspect of the handle member and an upper edge of the knife is positioned generally in-line with the upper aspect of the handle member.

Claim 20 (New) The ergonomic handle grip according to Claim 19, further comprising a first projection extending at least partially circumferentially about a lateral surface of the handle member and positioned proximate the at least one generally U-shaped recess thereby forming a finger abutment.

Claim 21 (New) The ergonomic handle grip according to Claim 20, further comprising at least two generally U-shaped recesses and a second projection extending